

The Child Care Center in Norwich



September 2017

Upcoming changes!

A sub committee of parents, former board members, former staff and other community stakeholders have been engaged in a long-range planning process here for almost two years. The primary focus has been on our ability to provide our staff with the kind of internal support that is needed in today's complex world of early care and education. We have long known that our staff needed the head teacher to be more available to them but had struggled with how to fund the position as a fully administrative position and not a classroom teacher/administrative role. Thanks to a generous grant from the Byrne Foundation, we will soon be able to pay off our mortgage, freeing that money to support this endeavor. Karen, who has been a classroom teacher/head teacher for 20 years, will leave the Orange Room as soon as we can make the logistics work. She will then be able to devote her attention to her head teacher responsibilities. This also means that when Allison is out of the building, attending the ever-increasing number of meetings that she needs to go to, that Karen will be here as a second in command to answer your questions or listen to your concerns. Don't hesitate to contact one of us if you have questions!

Classroom Updates



Nursery

A warm Nursery welcome to Felix, Dempsey and Helen and their families! We have lots of “big” kids right now so the favorite activities are stacking and dumping, and playing with trucks, balls and blocks. Liam will stack the rubber friction trucks on top of one another and then say “green . . .yellow . . . and blue!”. It has also been fun to fill and dump the shape sorter buckets. Some children have been imprinting the shapes as templates into the carpet after observing a teacher using the blocks. We have enjoyed playing with the Red Roomers in the their “big outdoor sandbox” thanks for the invitation. We picked green beans from our garden to enjoy as a healthy snack . . . yummy. The teachers especially enjoyed them with King Arthur veggie dip ☺. We want to wish Roxanna and Margaret, who are off to the Red Room soon, a smooth transition and happy reuniting with Orla, Micah and Violet. A couple of reminders, if your child is walking, please send indoor shoes with non-slip bottoms. Also, meal times can be hectic, if you can, it would be helpful if you would send in lunches ready to eat. It can be difficult for us to find time to cut up lots of fruits and veggies when we have a table of hungry children. Enjoy the remainder of your summer and remember, we are here to answer questions, offer advice and give our support. Happy Birthday to Liam, who turns two on September 14th, and to Helen, who turns one on September 7th!

Karla, Cindy, & Tom



Orange Room

As it always does, the summer has flown by! The Orange Roomers have spent countless hours painting and creating amazing collages with an ever-changing array of materials. They have discovered new paint colors by mixing colors together. They have been gluing and cutting paper and ribbon. We’ve also been able to enjoy the warm summer days by being outdoors more and even having some picnic lunches! Happy birthday to Maeve and Khloe, both will be four soon! This is always the hard part of the end summer – saying goodbye to the Orange Roomers as they move on to new rooms and schools. Maeve and Miriam are moving over to the Blue Room. Ovid will join Liam in the Yellow Room. We are saying goodbye to Khloe and Miguel who are both going to new schools. We wish them well in their new schools. Thank you all for a great year!

Karen

Red Room



Unfortunately fall is sneaking up on us. As the weather starts to change, we are going to start talking about colors and what goes better with colors than the alphabet. When your kids come home singing the ABC song, feel free to join in and maybe play a quick game of "I Spy" colors in the center on the way home. Only one birthday in September, Maggie turns three on the 25th, happy birthday Maggie! We have some friends leaving that we want to say goodbye to, Genevieve is leaving for new adventures and the end of August, and Eve, Jackson and Parker will be heading to Yellow in early September and Levi will be headed to Blue. Give them all a big goodbye or so long when you see them.

Shelly & Julie



Yellow Room

During the month of August we have been keeping an eye on our pattern garden. The rainbow chard has done great along with the sunflowers that opened like magic right before our eyes. Some summer highlights have been taking nature walks and picnic lunches on our playground. We have been learning about slugs, worms, frogs and toads. Lots of hands on discovery and exploration happening. One day we counted over 25 slugs. Wow, September is right around the corner! It is that time of year to welcome new friends to the classroom, how exciting. Welcome, May Ovid, Eve, Jackson and Parker. Throughout the next month we will be using this time to get to learn about one another and navigate classroom routines. Our activities and themes will be guided based on class interests. A few friendly reminders, we are a completely NUT FREE classroom for this upcoming school year. Please take bedding home on Fridays for washing as well as water bottles. Lastly, please make sure that your child's clothes bin is filled with extras. If you have any question or concerns, as always, please come and chat with me.

Sending birthday cheer to Mateo, who will be turning four on September 20th.

Jodie



Blue Room

We want to say a special good bye and good luck this month to our Blue Room friends leaving for kindergarten: Benjamin, Ellie, Keira, Lilly, Lincoln, and Sophie (as well as Sebastian, who left earlier this summer)! We will be having a special celebration on Wednesday, August 23 to recognize the exciting new changes for our Blue Roomers. We will also be welcoming new Blue Roomers in September as Maeve and Miriam move up from the Orange Room and Levi and Maggie join us from the Red Room!

Emily & Eleanor



Hiring Update

As you are, I am sure, aware, the Child Care Center has been striving to hire staff for a number of months. This has proven to be even more difficult than in the past. There is a severe shortage of applicants here and nationally and there are a number of reasons for this. To begin with unemployment is at a 16 year low, there are few people looking for jobs in any field. Thanks to Act 166 in Vermont, which I heartily support, there should be some state funds spent on preschool, there are now a glut of job openings for preschool teachers in public schools in Vermont, which of course pay much better than we can. There has also been an increasing demand for para educators in the public schools and those positions also provide direct competition for us. All in all we have lost a lot of staff to the public schools in recent years. A couple of local programs have also expanded recently, and have therefore done a lot of hiring, which has reduced the applicant pool even more. Every upper valley program is currently seeking staff!

Word of mouth is often the best way for us to find staff – so spread the word!